



MEETING DATE: 8/7/06

ITEM NO:

15

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JULY 24, 2006

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – ABATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION (BRUSH)

- A. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE THAT ALL IDENTIFIED PROPERTIES ACHIEVED VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WITH REGARD TO THE ABATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION FOR THE 2005-2006 SEASON
- B. TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION

### RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Conduct public hearing to consider the report of the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office that all identified properties achieved voluntary compliance with regard to the abatement of hazardous vegetation for the 2005-2006 season.
- 2. Take no further action.

### BACKGROUND:

Hazardous vegetation (brush) poses a serious fire danger during the summer months and should be controlled by individual property owners. To ensure that hazardous vegetation (brush) is eliminated, the Town Council established a Hazardous Vegetation (Brush) Abatement Program in cooperation with the County. The program, which is similar to those in neighboring jurisdictions, is modeled after the Town's nuisance abatement process. It begins each year in late spring with the adoption of a resolution declaring hazardous vegetation (brush) to be a public nuisance, and ends the following summer with a public hearing to confirm charges against properties on which brush was abated by the County's contractor.

PREPARED BY:

JOHN E. CURTIS

Director of Parks and Public Works

N:\B&E\COUNCIL REPORTS\brush.8706.100%compliance.doc

Reviewed by: BS Assistant Town Manager AL Town Attorney  
\_\_\_\_ Clerk Administrator SC Finance \_\_\_\_ Community Development

PAGE 2

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – ABATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION  
(BRUSH)

JULY 24, 2006

DISCUSSION:

Earlier this year, the County inspected properties in the Town and notified the owners of those on which hazardous vegetation (brush) was observed to remove the brush in accordance with fire safety standards.

Staff is pleased to report that 100 percent of the identified properties achieved voluntary compliance. Therefore, staff recommends that no further action be taken on this item.

CONCLUSION:

The fact that full compliance was achieved voluntarily speaks well for the cooperative efforts between the property owners and the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None for the Town. The County costs to administer and carry out the program are recovered via charges levied against the properties served by the program.

Distribution:

Dirk Mattern, Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention, Central Fire District, 14700 Winchester Boulevard, Los Gatos, CA 95030

Greg Van Wassenhove, Director, County of Santa Clara, Department of Agriculture and Resource Management, 1553 Berger Drive, Building #1, San Jose, CA 95112

Moe Kumbre, Program Coordinator, County of Santa Clara, Department of Agriculture and Resource Management, 1553 Berger Drive, Building #1, San Jose, CA 95112